

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for redeeming coupons from manufacturers by a store utilizing a third party service provider in conjunction with a coupon redemption system, comprising steps of:
~~identifying products, including at least first, second and third products being purchased, at a purchasing outlet, said first and second products being produced by first and second product providers, respectively;~~
~~reading firstly a first coupon from a first customer at the purchasing outlet;~~
~~determining, at the store with the coupon redemption system purchasing outlet, that a said first coupon from a first product manufacturer is to be redeemed and a second coupon from a second product manufacturer is to be redeemed;~~
~~modifying, at the purchasing outlet, said first coupon after said determining step for said first coupon, wherein said determining step cannot again be conducted for said first coupon after said modifying step because of one or more modifications made to said first coupon during said modifying step;~~
~~providing said first coupon, after said modifying step, in a first container;~~
~~reading secondly a second coupon from the first customer at the purchasing outlet, wherein said second coupon is the next coupon read after said first coupon;~~
~~making a determination related to whether said second coupon is to be redeemed after said reading secondly step;~~
~~storing, after said making step, said second coupon in a second container, different from said first container;~~
~~reading a third coupon at the purchasing outlet;~~
rejecting, at the store with the coupon redemption system, a ~~ascertaining that said third coupon is to be rejected;~~

~~accepting the deciding not to reject said third coupon at the store after the third coupon is rejected by the coupon redemption system; and~~
~~locating said third coupon in a third container, different from said first and second containers;~~
~~reimbursing firstly for said first coupon;~~
~~reimbursing the store secondly for the first and said second coupon through the use of the coupon redemption system associated with the at a time different from said reimbursing firstly step, wherein each of said reimbursing firstly and said reimbursing secondly steps is made by a third party service provider, the third party service provider being different from the first and second manufacturers providers of the first and second products associated with the said first and second coupons, respectively.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method of claim , as claimed in Claim 1 [[,]]
further comprising steps of including:
recording transaction information related to the said third coupon in the coupon redemption system; retrieving said third coupon from said third container;
and
checking whether reimbursement is to be made to the store for the said third coupon based on the recorded transaction information.
3. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method of claim , as claimed in Claim 1 [[,]]
further comprising a step of storing the first and second coupons in a container for later use during the reimbursing step wherein: said second coupon is stored depending on a number of factors including whether said second coupon is submitted for redemption at a particular store and whether said second coupon is submitted for redemption during a particular time.

4. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method of claim ~~, as claimed in Claim 1[[.]]~~ further comprising steps of including:
~~removing said third coupon from said third container;~~
obtaining information from the said third coupon using a coupon redemption subsystem at a location different from the store ~~purchasing outlet~~; and
~~using said information in determining whether to reimburse~~ the store for the said third coupon based upon the information.
5. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method of ~~, as claimed in Claim 1[[.]]~~ further comprising a step of wherein: said identifying products being purchased at the store ~~step is conducted~~ using a product reader device that is separate from and each of said reading firstly and secondly steps is conducted using a coupon reader device utilized in the determining step.
6. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method of claim ~~, as claimed in Claim [[1]],~~ wherein ~~[[.]]~~ the said reimbursing firstly step comprises reimbursing the store for the first coupon ~~is made to an entity associated with the purchasing outlet within about one day after the determining said providing step and said reimbursing the store for the second coupon~~ secondly step is made to the entity more than one day after the determining ~~said storing~~ step.
7. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method of claim 3 ~~, as claimed in Claim 1,~~ wherein the ~~:- said first~~ container includes: (i) a modified coupon lock box unit, (ii) ~~said second container includes an audit coupon lock box unit,~~ and (iii) ~~said third container includes a rejected coupon lock box unit.~~
8. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method of claim ~~, as claimed in Claim 1[[.]]~~ further comprising a step of including: reimbursing the third party service provider by the first manufacturer ~~product provider~~ after the third party service provider reimburses the store for the first coupon ~~said reimbursing firstly step.~~

9. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method of claim , as claimed in Claim 1[[,]]
further comprising a step of modifying, at the store after the determining step, the
first coupon such that the first coupon cannot be processed again by the coupon
redemption system to determine whether to redeem the first coupon including:
~~removing said third coupon from said third container and taking said third coupon~~
~~to a coupon redemption subsystem that includes an auxiliary coupon reader~~
~~device that reads said third coupon.~~
10. (original) A system for redeeming coupons from manufacturers by a store
utilizing a third party service provider, comprising:
a coupon verification device that reads a first coupon, a second coupon, and a
third coupon and determines , ~~wherein at least said first and second~~
~~coupons are from a first customer and said second coupon is read next~~
~~after said first coupon; processing apparatus in operative communication~~
~~with said device, said processing apparatus determining that (i) the said~~
~~first coupon is to be redeemed and modified, (ii) the determining that said~~
~~second coupon is to be redeemed and audited, and (iii) the determining~~
~~that said third coupon is to be rejected; and~~
a ~~first storage unit that stores said first coupon;~~
a ~~second storage unit that stores said second coupon;~~
a ~~third storage unit that stores said third coupon, wherein said device, said~~
~~processing apparatus, and each of said first, second and third storage~~
~~units are located at purchasing outlet at which said first, second, and third~~
~~coupons are presented for redemption; and~~
a coupon redemption subsystem remotely located from the coupon verification
device and operatively configured to issue means for issuing payment to
the store from a third party service provider as related to reimbursement
for redemption of the said first coupon and said second coupon, the third
party service provider being different from manufacturers of products
associated with the first, second and third coupons~~said means for issuing~~

~~payment being operated to reimburse for said second coupon at a time different from being operated to reimburse for said first coupon.~~

11. (Currently Amended) The [A] system of claim 10 wherein the coupon verification device ~~, as claimed in Claim 10, wherein: said processing apparatus generates a report that includes information related to the said second coupon including: (i) an identity of the store purchasing outlet, (ii) an identity of a store purchasing outlet lane at which the said second coupon was submitted for redemption, and (iii) a time at which the said second coupon was submitted for redemption.~~
12. (Currently Amended) The system of An apparatus, as claimed in claim 10, ~~wherein: said device is a coupon reader device and the system further comprising includes a product reader device different from said coupon verification reader device.~~
13. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] system of ~~, as claimed in claim 10 wherein the , further including: a coupon redemption subsystem that is provided at a location different from the purchasing outlet, said coupon redemption system comprises including an auxiliary coupon reader device and a processor that receives information obtained by the coupon verification device said processing apparatus related to the said third coupon.~~
14. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] system of claim ~~, as claimed in Claim 10[[,]] wherein the coupon redemption subsystem comprises : said means for issuing payment includes at least one of: (i) a check writer and (ii) a planned operations development node operatively configured to wire transfer to a bank an account.~~